

USSN 09/941,827

Response

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 13-16, 18, 20, 23-27, 31-37, 41-43, 46, 48, 53-57, 62, 78-87, 89, 90-99, 105-110, 115, 117, 127-128, 130-133, 145-146, 148-149 have been amended.

Claims 88 and 144 have been canceled.

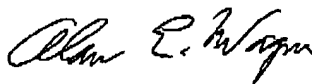
The Examiner proposed certain pre-Allowance amendments. After a brief telephone interview on July 18, 2006, the Applicant agreed to the proposed amendments. Due to the extensive number of amendments, the Applicant submits the attached replacement claims for the Examiner's convenience.

In preparing these replacement claims, the language of the Markush group presented in the proposed amendments has been changed to correct the obvious typographic substitution of "argon" for "helium."

Extension of Term. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. If any extension and/or fee are required, please charge Account No. 23-2053.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney if any questions should arise.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: July 19, 2006

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